

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/076,532

Examiner

Nigar Chowdhury

Applicant(s)

TSUNODA, HIROSHI

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/17/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3 and 11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dennis Hubbs on 04/26/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 11, line ~~8~~¹ "according to claim 9" has been deleted; and line ~~7~~³_^

--a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, further comprising:-- has been added before "an assigner".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 3, and 11 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a image recording apparatus for recording compressed signal.

The independent claim 1 is identifies the uniquely distinct feature for "an assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed image signals; an acceptor for accepting a restoring instruction of said link information; and a restorer said link information on the basis of said identifying number in accepting said restoring instruction"

The independent claim 11 is identifies the uniquely distinct feature for "an assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed still images created by said compressor; and a restorer for restoring the link based on the identifying numbers assigned by said assigner at a time of accepting a restoring instruction in a state of the link destroyed"

Okada, US Patent No. 6,928,229, discloses individual images included in a multi-frame image can be reproduced in an enlarged scale by an easy operation. Information indicating the number of split frames of a multi-frame image and information indicating the number of photographed images included in the multi-frame image are recorded on a recording medium together with images constituting the multi-frame image. In the reproduction mode, each of images constituting the multi-frame image is reproduced and output on one frame with reference to the reproduced information indicating the number of split frames of the multi-frame image and the reproduced

information indicating the number of photographed images included in the multi-frame image.

Hori et al., US Patent No. 6,263,148, discloses a reproduction apparatus reproduces information signals recorded in a plurality of recording modes having different information sizes of an information signal to be recorded per unit time, discriminates the recording mode of the reproduced information signal, and controls tracking between a recording medium and head in accordance with the discrimination result.

Sasaki et al., US Patent No. 6,226,447, discloses the video signal recording and reproducing apparatus of the invention includes: a receiving section for receiving a television signal; an image compression section for compressing an amount of information per unit time of the received continuous video signal; a writing section for intermittently writing a compressed video signal, obtained as an output of the image compression section, onto a hard disk apparatus via a magnetic head.

Moriyama et al., US Patent No. 5,572,333, discloses a method of recording compressed and coded data is designed to improve the speed and ease of random accessing, and to reduce the buffer capacity and facilitate control and editing in the reproducing system. The method comprises the steps of compressing and coding video signals for every predetermined number of frames with the amount of codes per

Art Unit: 2621

predetermined number of frames being constant; storing the predetermined number of frames of compressed and coded video signals into at least one video packet; storing the video packet in a pack having a time slot corresponding to the predetermined number of frames (preferably at the end of the pack); and recording the video signals on the recording medium in a pack stream containing such packs, with the relation between the size of the pack and the size of the logical block of the recording medium being set to 1:n (n: an integer) and the relation between the size of the pack and the size of the physical block of the recording medium being set to 2:m (m: an integer).

None of the prior art, either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

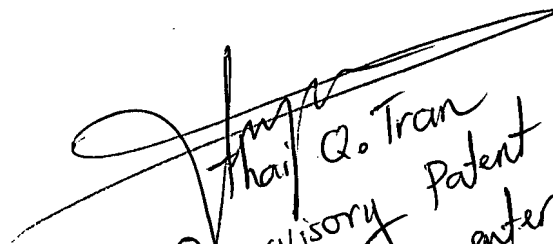
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nigar Chowdhury whose telephone number is 571-272-8890. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NC
04/30/2007


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